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#76

EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

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EAST GERMANY

Detente All the Way

In an unusual interview with an AP correspondent yesterday, party boss Erich Honecker sought to give the impression that Pankow fully supports international detente. He said the GDR program was "a warming up of the international climate in the interest of peace and mankind." Honecker not only reaffirmed his desire to continue normalizing relations with Bonn, but said there is no reason to delay the establishment of diplomatic relations with the US. (Actually, Embassy buildings are being selected and prepared in both capitals.)

Honecker characterized "recent events" in Bonn as "domestic matters" whose "deeper causes certainly do not lie in any sort of spy cases." He said opaquely that in talks on the currency exchange requirement for visitors, the GDR would "take the necessary decisions."

Honecker defended the Berlin Wall on the ground that, from the beginning, it has "promoted the idea of normal relations and peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems." He stated that "We shall maintain border installations corresponding to our own security requirements." 25X1

ROMANIA

Bucharest to Reestablish Relations with Lisbon

Negotiations were successfully completed on 31 May in London on restoring diplomatic relations between Romania and Portugal, after a break of nearly 30 years. Romania will be the first East European country to reestablish relations with Lisbon since ties were severed between the Communist regimes and conservative Portugal. 25X1

State Dept. review completed

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YUGOSLAVIA

And So Might Belgrade

Belgrade and Lisbon may decide this week to reestablish diplomatic relations during the visit of Yugoslav Assistant Foreign Secretary Dizdarevic to Lisbon. A high-level Yugoslav diplomat last week said that such a resumption was "imminent" and that the timing would be decided this week. In explaining Belgrade's views, he said that Yugoslavia considers it important that the new Portuguese government be encouraged in its liberal outlook by widespread world recognition. He added that Belgrade has long had good informal links with Portuguese Communists and socialists and looks forward to placing the relationship on an official basis.

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POLAND

CSCE Slow Down

Polish media have evidently been ordered to express pessimism on an early conclusion of the Phase II talks at CSCE.

[redacted] recently told the Embassy that the Central Committee has issued a directive instructing the media to play down references to an early completion of Phase II and a summit in Helsinki. The directive allegedly stated that progress at the current session is so slow that it is not possible to predict when Phase II will end.

During April and May both the leadership and the press had been optimistic both about an early conclusion of the talks and the possibility of resolving the knotty problems involved in Basket III (freer movement). The change in the line suggests that more bloc stonewalling is in the works.

The press has already begun to comply with the directive. In a dispatch from Geneva on 1 June, Trybuna Ludu commentator Ryszard Wojna stated that the delegates are beginning to run out of time. While he attributed "temporary" delays in the talks to "a certain stiffening" of the Western attitude caused by recent government changes, he also noted that there is still a great deal to be done in Basket III.

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